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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/759,602	01/16/2004	Michael Ainley	50,476A	9876

25212 7590 02/24/2006

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46268

EXAMINER

BAUM, STUART F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1638

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/759,602

Applicant(s)

AINLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Stuart F. Baum

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1 and 3-43 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/31/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-43 are pending.
2. Applicant's election of Group XIV, claim 2, drawn to nucleotides 4420-5064 of SEQ ID NO:1 in the reply filed on 1/18/2006 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claims 1, and 3-43 are withdrawn from consideration for being drawn to non-elected inventions.

3. Claim 2, drawn to nucleotides 4420-5064 of SEQ ID NO:1 is examined in the present office action.

Specification

4. The Office acknowledges Applicants claim for domestic priority to Applications 09/643,971 and 09/097,319 as specified in the Transmittal letter filed 1/16/2004. Applicant is requested to amend the first paragraph to include the present status of said applications. In particular, to specify the U.S. patent numbers corresponding to said applications.

Objection is made to the specification for not incorporating SEQ ID NO's when referring to nucleic acid or amino acid sequences. 37 CFR 1.821(d) requires the use of the assigned sequence identifier (e.g. SEQ I.D. NO: X) in all instances where the description or claims of a patent application discuss sequences. See for example page 23, line 18.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The claimed invention is not supported by an enabling disclosure taking into account the *Wands* factors. *In re Wands*, 858/F.2d 731, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (Fed. Cir. 1988). *In re Wands* lists a number of factors for determining whether or not undue experimentation would be required by one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. These factors are: the quantity of experimentation necessary, the amount of direction or guidance presented, the presence or absence of working examples of the invention, the nature of the invention, the state of the prior art, the relative skill of those in the art, the predictability or unpredictability of the art, and the breadth of the claim.

The claim is drawn to an isolated DNA per5 intron sequence of basepairs 4420-5064 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Applicants have not reduced to practice the invention. The specification fails to provide guidance for one of skill in the art how to make and/or use the claimed invention. Applicants have not transformed a wild-type plant with the claimed sequence to produce a plant with either an altered phenotype or shown that the isolated DNA can be used for purposes of gene expression. Applicants have not taught how one skilled in the art can use the claimed sequence

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without having to do additional undue experimentation in order to achieve the desired results.

Applicants have not shown that the claimed sequence does in fact have gene regulation activity.

In addition, Applicants have not taught how one skilled in the art would use a plant transformed with the claimed sequence.

The state-of-the-art teaches gene regulation activity of introns is sensitive to changes or deletions of important basepairs. Busch et al (1999, Science 285:585-587) and Lohmann et al (2001, Cell 105 :793-803) teach *LEAFY* (*LFY*) and *WUSCHEL* (*WUS*), which have been shown to be transcription factors that together activate proper *AGAMOUS* (*AG*) expression, do so by binding to the second intron of the *AG* gene. A two base-pair mutation within the binding site of either *LFY* or *WUS* eliminates binding of either *LFY* or *WUS*, respectively (Busch et al (supra) page 587 left column, 2nd paragraph; Lohmann et al (supra) page 799, bottom and top of left and right columns) and changes the temporal and spatial *AG* expression pattern.

In the absence of guidance, undue trial and error experimentation would be required for one of ordinary skill in the art to construct a multitude of genetic constructs in which the per5 intron of basepairs 4420-5064 of SEQ ID NO:1 is subcloned either in front of, behind or anywhere within the coding sequences and then to screen through the multitude of constructs to in order to identify those, if any, that when over-expressed have either an enhanced expression or a different spatial or temporal expression profile, compared to the expression of the coding sequence without the per5 intronic region.

Therefore, given the breadth of the claims; the lack of guidance and examples; the unpredictability in the art; and the state-of-the-art as discussed above, undue experimentation would be required to practice the claimed invention, and therefore the invention is not enabled.

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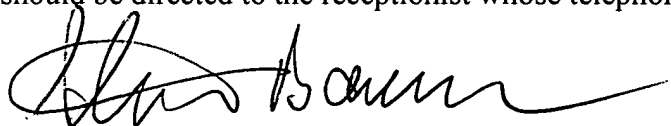
6. Claim 2 is deemed free of the prior art, given the failure of the prior art to teach or reasonably suggest an isolated polynucleotide of base-pairs 4420-5064 of SEQ ID NO:1.

7. No claims are allowed.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stuart F. Baum whose telephone number is 571-272-0792. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anne Marie Grunberg can be reached at 571-272-0975. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-1600.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart F. Baum', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stuart F. Baum Ph.D.

Patent Examiner

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February 22, 2006